



March 1, 2023

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 100 (Stephenson) as it is considered by the House Public Safety Committee on Thursday.

Metro Cities has specific concerns with the bill as it relates to the role and responsibility of local governments to enforce state laws and provide public safety for a local community.

The current version of the bill requires local governments to register cannabis businesses if they have been licensed by the state and have met certain other requirements. Cities are not able to weigh any additional local factors when registering cannabis businesses. Metro Cities continues to support local licensing for cannabis retailers and the authority for cities to opt out of authorizing the sale of products in their local jurisdiction. HF 100 does allow cities to suspend registrations for non-compliant businesses, which affords cities a degree of local control as they respond to problem retailers and potential public safety concerns. Metro Cities supports language in HF 100 that requires the Office of Cannabis Management to respond to public health or safety threats within 24 hours.

Metro Cities supports the requirement that the Office of Cannabis Management conduct an annual report that includes information on recommended funding levels for peace officer training. State appropriations in HF 100 must recognize the additional financial and local staffing pressures adult-use cannabis legalization will put on cities and local law enforcement as is the case when local governments are required to implement and enforce state laws.

Metro Cities stands ready to work with the bill's author, members of this committee, and other stakeholders to ensure any regulatory framework developed for adult-use cannabis involves input by city officials and addresses the needs of local jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities